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PREFACE.

TWENTY-SECOND VOLUME.

If years shorten with increasing age they lengthen with increasing wonders ; so that the last has much advanced on the revelations of the preceding year, and brought to light ten-fold more bearing on the social and moral condition of man than twelve months exhibited half a century ago.

Especially is this true on the sea, where steam, and wind, and currents and skill, speed the swift ships ;—where commercial enterprise, scientific research, and bold adventures quicken the human mind ;—where the spirit and truth of God accomplish works which awaken nobler songs than those which the morning stars sang over the new-born creation.

How rapid and wonderful the events chronicled in this annual volume ! The landing on these shores from over sea of more than a thousand souls a day during the year ; the laying open the marine wealth of the Arctic Ocean, and the mineral wealth of the Pacific coast ;—the influence of these discoveries socially and morally in bringing all nations to eat at the same table, and bow before the same Lord ;—the power of commerce, and a progressive Christianity in arousing some of the nations of Europe, and Asia, and the Islands of the Sea, as well as South America to assert the rights of conscience and religious liberty ; and above all, the works and wonders of grace and mercy in the transformation of character in the deep !

These are some of the records of the year ; rendering the twenty second volume, from the nature of its facts, richer than any of its predecessors.

The next volume may reasonably be expected to be still richer ; for

what has been done may be considered as only preparatory to greater things ;—the preface of a volume which shall reveal prophecies and promises fulfilled in the conversion of the abundance of the sea.

And when this shall be accomplished ;—when the vessels of war shall be despatched only on errands of peace and fraternal relationship ; when the vessels of commerce shall carry on a merchandise richer than that of silver and gold, and the men of the sea are at once the shining ornaments and the efficient agents of the gospel, how rapidly will the world's redemption hasten on ! How soon will such a sanctified power cast up the highway on which the Lord's redeemed shall return and come to Zion !

To seaman and others who have contributed with their pens to enrich the columns of the Magazine our *heartly thanks*, and the request that you will not be weary in well doing. Send us now and then a good thought—an important fact—a striking illustration. It may prove as “an handful of corn in the earth upon the top of the mountains—the fruit thereof shall shake like Lebanon.”

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